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February 4, 2009

Financial Assistance Programs Division
U. S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS
1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 5237S
Washington, DC 20250-2890

Re: Comments on proposed NRSC regulation changes, Docket # NRCS-IFR-08005

Dear Sirs,

After reviewing the proposed changes to the regulations, we wish to bring the following concerns to your attention;

Section 1466.8, c, 2, iii; Change to read as follows: The conservation practices to be implemented on the public land are necessary and will contribute to an improvement in the identified resource concern; or.

It is necessary to remove the words, "that is on private land". This wording discriminates against the average Western rancher/farmer from access to EQIP funding. Most Western operations have little or no private lands. Also each operation needs to be treated as one unit, because each operation as a whole is dependent upon all its parts or pastures. To deny funding to one part would adversely affect the whole.

Working with the NRSC in coordinating management plans, has been a win, win for everyone. Through the EQIP funding, new waters site are available to all wildlife and cattle, rotation plans are being developed to improve range health, wildlife habitats are expanding and open spaces are being maintained for all the public to enjoy.

Thank you for addressing our concerns.

Sincerely,

Clay Overson Sandra Overson

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cc: AZ NRCS State Conservationist, David McKay, Congressman Trent Franks
AZ NRCS State Technical Committee, Steve Barker, Congressman Jeff Flake
Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, Acting-Chief NRCS, Dr. David White
Director Financial Assistance USDA/NRCS, Greg Johnson